

for leadership and who thus have proven their qualifications to serve the people of Maryland in public office. It is upon them, and others like them, that the Democratic Party depends for its successes now and in the years ahead. It is to them, and others like them, that we look for guidance as we plan our efforts to face the contest of next year and the elections to come.

As everyone here knows, I think, my experience in political affairs stretches back over many years, maybe too long, but I have had a greater opportunity than most of you to observe the vicissitudes — the fortunes and the misfortunes — of the Democratic Party in the early and middle years of our century. I have seen it rise to the highest peaks of triumph and success. And, sadly, I have seen it plunge to the utter depths of adversity.

You will recall that when I took the oath of office in January, 1959, I succeeded eight years of Republican occupancy of the Governorship of our State. In that year, Maryland was represented in the Senate of the United States by two Republicans, both of whom had defeated the most illustrious of the statesmen Maryland has produced in this century.

As you know, since that time we have had, and we hold, the Governorship. And may I add that we intend to keep it. We have replaced the two Republican United States Senators, so that Maryland is represented by Democrats, and Democrats only, in the upper chamber of our Congress. Six of our eight Maryland members of the House of Representatives are Democrats. I think we can better that next year, and I hope all of you will work with me toward that end. We have consistently maintained clear and effective Democratic majorities in both houses of our General Assembly. In the area of local government, we have suffered some rather disturbing setbacks over the past few years, but the fact remains that most of the local governments in our State remain in the hands of Democrats. The point I would like to make here is that in every instance of failure that I have seen, in all my experience and from all my observation, there is a distinct and clear-cut cause. It is party disunity. On the record, a vast majority of the voters of Maryland are registered as Democrats. And not only that, there is no doubt in my mind that a vast majority of the voters of Maryland are Democrats at heart — by persuasion and by conviction. So that, when we lose, as we have too frequently in recent years, we have no one to blame but ourselves. For we lose only when we allow our Party to deteriorate and disintegrate by disharmony and internal dissension. When we battle with a united front we are all but invincible.